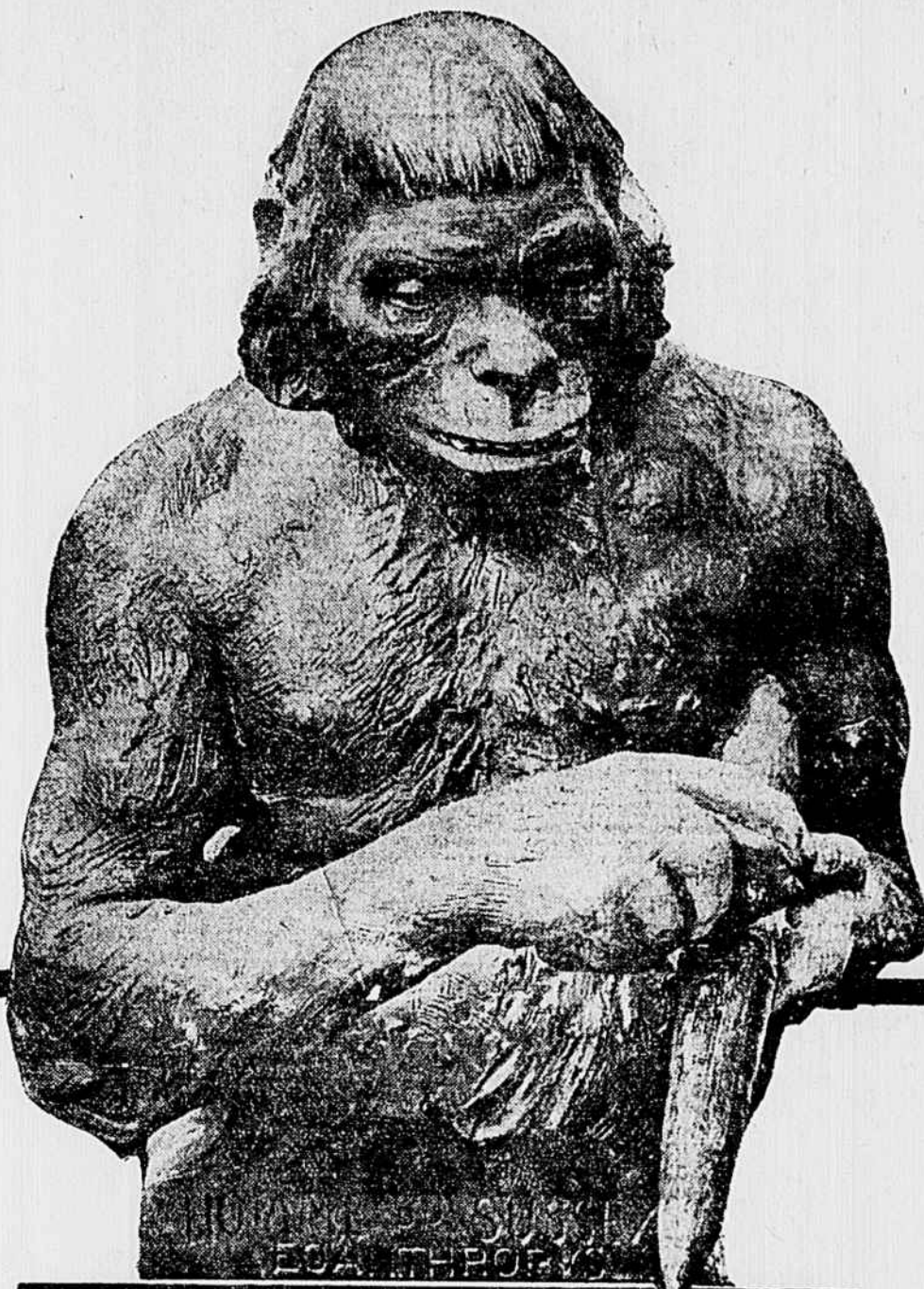


The Earliest Men and Women



The "Pithecanthropus of Java," the Earliest Known Missing Link, Who Was Neither Completely Ape Nor Entirely Man



The Piltown Man, Found in Sussex, England, the Creature with an Ape-Like Jaw, Who First Made Rough Stone Tools

Newly-Discovered Relics Near Trenton, N. J., Which Establish at Last the

Fact That Men of the Early Stone Age Inhabited the United States

EVIDENCE has been collected which proves beyond question that prehistoric man existed in America at the time of the great ice age, upwards of 40,000 years ago.

The principal centre of prehistoric man's activities in America was along the banks of the Delaware River, near Trenton, New Jersey, fifty-seven miles from New York and thirty-three miles from Philadelphia. Thus the section where the largest masses of Americans live to-day was also the principal centre of population in prehistoric times. The prehistoric man hunted and fished where the modern commuter is most in evidence. Here was a particularly favorable spot for prehistoric man's existence when the glaciers had retreated sufficiently, leaving a broad river filled with fish and having on its banks an abundance of small game suitable for a rough hunter's support.

The evidences of prehistoric man near Trenton are not a novelty to persons interested in this subject, but the great American Museum of Natural History in New York has now published a report supporting their authenticity. It has acquired over 300 relics of prehistoric man found in this region. Many of which are now on exhibition there. The whole collection will probably be eventually formed into a complete exposition of prehistoric life in America.

The Museum has conducted through Dr. Clark Wissler, of its staff, a scientific measurement of the site where these relics were found, and this indicates that they date from an extremely early period and could not have been articles of a later age carried there by some natural accident.

It is a remarkable and curious discovery that prehistoric man existed here. Hitherto it has generally been maintained by American and European scientists that man was a comparatively late comer on the American continent, that he did not exist here as early as the glacial period, and that there was no stage of evolution in human life on this continent substantially older than the various types of Indians found here at the time of the Columbian discovery.

Nothing has been found to show that the prehistoric men of New Jersey were not of the same racial stock as the Indians, but if they were Indians then these people were of stupendous antiquity and not comparatively late arrivals on the American continent, as has been argued. There is good reason to believe that traces of man in still older geological formations in New Jersey will be established.

These discoveries have an important bearing on the great

Scientists and Field Workers of the American Museum of Natural History Digging for Remains of Prehistoric Men Near Trenton, N. J.



problem of the evolution of man. Remains of man of stupendous antiquity have now been found in such widely separated places as New Jersey, Western Europe and Southeastern Asia, that is, practically all over the world. These facts support the hypothesis that man did not evolve from one common man-like ancestor, but sprang from various man-like types in different parts of the globe.

The discoveries, with which the American Museum of Natural History is now dealing, were made principally on the farm of Dr. C. C. Abbott, a noted archaeologist, on the banks of the Delaware River, just outside Trenton. Dr. Abbott made the original researches here himself. The work was later taken up by Ernest Volk, a local real estate man, and a very enthusiastic and self-educated scientist. Professor F. Ward Putnam, of Harvard, was convinced that Mr. Volk had found remains of prehistoric man of the glacial age. Finally the American Museum took up the investigation, feeling that it was a question of vital importance to science.

The Daily Life These Primitive Americans Led

It is known that the implements acquired by the Museum were made by early prehistoric man, because they were found deep down in the yellow drift that was undoubtedly deposited by the glacial streams and because they were of a far more primitive type than the Indian tools of the time of the discovery.

It will help to quicken the reader's interest in this subject if we sketch the kind of life these early Americans led on the banks of the Delaware.

They had no houses. They had little if any clothes. They found homes for themselves in holes in the hillsides or in the river banks, which they made for themselves, or found ready made. It is probable that at a late stage of their development they made a kind of tent, with animal skins, hung on poles.

They clothed themselves in winter probably with animal skins, when they were fortunate enough to obtain them. They were ill equipped to catch or kill large animals, for they had only small, rough stone weapons. Very often they perished from cold and hunger. Others were drowned in the floods or devoured by the wild beasts which were then very numerous in this region.

Among the animals that lived here was the terrible saber-toothed tiger, which perhaps survived until the time of this Neolithic man. Others were the mastodon, giant wolf, several kinds of large cave bears, camels and llamas.

The tools found are practically all of three types — arrow-heads, blades and scrapers. They are generally made of argillite, a hard slate-like material, while a few are of a flinty substance. The arrowheads are from one and a half to two

and a half inches long, while the blades and scrapers vary from four to eight inches in length. The blades are sometimes very sharp, almost sharp enough to shave with, and were used to cut pieces of meat from animals and as weapons.

The arrowheads were the prehistoric man's principal means of support. They were probably powerful enough to kill small animals, such as rabbits and possibly deer. They were useless against bears and other large animals. They give us a striking suggestion of the dangers that surrounded the prehistoric man and the courage and strength needed to hold his own.

Our prehistoric American had no grains, no wheat, corn, or cultivated vegetables. He lived principally on fish, which explains why he clung so closely to the river bank. The remains reveal no fish hooks or sinkers for fish nets, such as the Indians used. The prehistoric man, therefore, must have caught his fish with his hands.

He knew the use of fire, which he made by rubbing sticks together, but it was tremendously difficult to make. It is probable that he tried to keep a fire going permanently.

Apparently he had no religion, for there are no evidences of ceremonial burial, which is generally the first sign of religious life among primitive communities. Nevertheless it is probable that he calculated the return of the sun and the lengthening of the days after the Spring equinox, which meant the end of his sufferings, cold, starvation and other miseries during the winter.

The Dreadful Fate of Women in Those Times

He had as many wives as he could catch and keep. He did his courting with one of his rough stone weapons. He had to give his wife some spare pieces of meat while she was raising her children. He had no morals, no ethics, no laws, no decency, and was not as well behaved as a modern, self-respecting family dog. He was unspeakably stupid, brutal and miserable.

The women took a leading part in making and using the tools we now see and were perhaps the principal workers.

Ernest Volk has written an interesting record of his search for these prehistoric remains. He explored hundreds of excavations made by himself and others on the banks of the Delaware River, which in prehistoric ages was two or three times its present width. He points out that the characteristic soil formation of this region consists of (1) a layer of black soil on top of which lived the Indians who were here when white men first came; (2) below this the yellow drift, deposited by the glacial streams after they had melted, and (3) lowest still, the gravel which was brought down by the flocks of glacial ice.

Mr. Volk unearthed large quantities of Indian remains in the black soil. Below this, in the yellow drift, he found human bones and relics of human workmanship of an absolutely different and very primitive type. Finally, in the glacial gravels, he found a human bone and stones that appear to have been worked by man.

Mr. Volk shows that the human remains he found in the yellow drift and the gravels could not be confused with those from the top or Indian layer. For instance, he says that any intrusion from the black soil into the yellow drift leaves a mark as plain as black ink on white paper. Moreover, any breakage of the drift is perfectly plain to a geologist, partly on account of the red horizontal streaks which run through it.

The first relics of human workmanship of the yellow glacial drift he describes were found on the Lator Farm. Here he found a workshop of argillite tools six inches down in the yellow drift, and beneath another eighteen inches of black soil.



Prehistoric Woman of the Neanderthal Type Reconstruction of the Earliest

"It contained," he says, "under a flat slab of a beautiful blende argillite spear head, also several argillite boulders, argillite chips and a number of quills, broken by fracturing. No charcoal, burnt stone of fire were found. The yellow soil was not disturbed by the workshop, nor was there any connection between the workshop and the back soil."

Then came the finding of human bones in the yellow drift.

"Two distinct heaps of human bones were found," Volk says. "They were six feet below the present surface upon a stratum of whitish sand, coarse, clean and six inches thick."

And now we come to the discoveries in the lowest ancient stratum of all, the glacial gravels. The first discovery in this formation was a bone which was as the scapula of a muskox, a prehistoric animal. It was found ten feet two inches down.

Then, while examining a new railroad cut south of Trenton, Mr. Volk made a very remarkable discovery, which was the existence in America of a man far older than historic Neolithic already described, a man living perhaps of thousands of years ago, and in structure a link between an ape-like creature and a real man.

"I saw some white object," writes Mr. Volk, "partly

On the Left, an Arrow-Head, and on the Right, a Scraper, Also Exact Size



Prehistoric Woman of the Neanderthal Type Reconstruction of the Earliest

by the sand which was still running down the face of the bank, as I found it was after picking from the face of the bank. There were two pieces, a large and a smaller one first, then the smaller one too, the large piece touching the smaller one. I took careful measurements and seven feet seven inches below the surface of sand two feet thick, one foot below the bank between two little pebbles.

"After the bone had been sent to the museum for identification it was found to be a human being that had been cut by a cellular structure had been gouged and it had been perforated in two places. The handle of some implement was found in the bone.

Six days later he found another part of the parietal bone of a human being, the femur and ten feet earlier worked by man.

The sites explored by Dr. Abbott were examined by the American Museum of Natural History, in this was done.

"Dr. C. C. Abbott, owner of the

the Prehistoric American's Cave Which He Skinned the Animals

